



New Brunswick Salmon Growers' Association

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NB SALMON FARMERS INVEST IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY Well Boat Will Reduce Therapeutant Use and Improve Sea Lice Management

St George – The *Ronja Carrier*, chartered from the Norwegian company Solvtrans, will be in the Bay of Fundy for the next six months to help salmon farmers control sea lice on salmon farms. Salmon will be carefully pumped from the farm enclosure into the hold of the well boat where they will be immersed in a mixture of seawater and approved therapeutant to remove sea lice, a naturally occurring parasite. Fish are then returned to their enclosure.

INTEROX® PARAMOVE® 50, or hydrogen peroxide, is also being introduced for use in the well boat. This product is environmentally friendly and will not build up in the environment or in the salmon itself. Hydrogen peroxide degrades quickly to water and oxygen in the presence of organic material and aeration.

“The NB salmon farming industry has a history of being responsive to fish health concerns and our ‘made in New Brunswick solution’ for sea lice management is just another example,” said Pamela Parker, NBSGA Executive Director. “The development and implementation of an effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy is founded on good husbandry and fish health practices such as bay management, fallowing, crop rotation and low stocking densities. However, it also relies on access to a broad range of sea lice management tools whose use is based on current science and a comprehensive research program.”

The NBSGA, by chartering the well boat on behalf of a cooperative of all salmon farming companies in the region, is bringing this technology to Canada for the first time. This will reduce by half, the amount of bath product required per treatment, while improving treatment efficacy of each bath treatment and to support the use of hydrogen peroxide.

Throughout the past winter and spring, the NBSGA collaborated with a broad range of researchers from government, academia and private institutions to develop a multi-faceted research program that includes:

- continued research into the potential environmental impact of sea lice treatments,
- development of novel or green technologies for sea lice management,
- environmental monitoring that will lead to a greater understanding of the sources and timing of lice both on wild species and in the zooplankton
- development and implementation of tools to monitor and record fish health data

“The price tag for the charter of the well boat and the research will be high, but this investment is considered a top priority for our salmon farming companies,” said Parker. “Thanks to collaboration and support from our federal and provincial departments and the support we have received from the research community, we will be able to ensure that our industry remains a world leader in fish health management and environmental protection.”

The New Brunswick salmon farming industry has a farm gate value of \$280 million, representing the province’s largest cash crop. Salmon farming is a significant employer in the province’s coastal and rural communities. In Charlotte County alone, sixteen per cent of the workforce is employed in the aquaculture sector. The NBSGA represents the majority of salmon producers in New Brunswick, the majority of feed producers in Atlantic Canada and a number of service, supply and consulting companies.

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